

REMARKS

The Examiner's communication dated September 28, 2005 has been received and carefully considered. In conformance with the applicable statutory requirements, this paper constitutes a complete reply and/or a bona fide attempt to advance the application to allowance. Specifically, claims 2, 5, 7, 11-12 and 15 have been amended and claims 13 and 17-20 have been canceled. Reexamination and/or reconsideration of the application as amended are respectfully requested.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 5-6, 8-9, 11-12 and 14 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Claims 13 and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-4, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Watson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,265,859).

Claims 1-4, 7 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Westcott et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,921,539).

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watson et al. in view of Amano (U.S. Patent No. 6,120,018).

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Westcott et al., as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Inoue et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,173,951).

Summary of Examiner Interview

On or about October 19, 2005, one of applicant's representatives, Erik J. Overberger, conducted a telephone interview with Examiner Thomas A. Morrison. In the interview, no specific prior art was discussed and no exhibits were shown, nor were any demonstrations conducted. The Examiner indicated that Claims 13 and 17-20 were rejected in the final Office Action of August 1, 2005 and that, since an Advisory Action issued on September 28, 2005, the Examiner would consider no further claim amendments or arguments in connection with the rejected claims.

However, the Examiner did state that if claims 13 and 17-20 were cancelled, the remaining claims and thus the application would be allowed. In particular, the Examiner stated that the remaining independent claims, Claims 5, 11 and 12 were indicated in the final Office Action as containing allowable subject matter and that, since these claims were placed in independent form, these claims and any claims dependent therefrom would be allowable. Since no other issues remain, applicant's representative submits this paper (the Second Response to Final Office Action) for purposes of advancing the application to a Notice of Allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 13 and 17-20 have been cancelled.

**The Pending Claims Distinguish Patentability
Over the Reference(s) of Record**

Claim 5, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed in independent form. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 5 and claims 2-4 and 6-10 dependent therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 11, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed in independent form. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 11 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 12, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed in independent form. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 12 and claims 14-16 dependent therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is submitted all claims pending in the application (Claims 2-12 and 14-16) are now in condition for allowance. The foregoing comments do not require unnecessary additional search or examination.

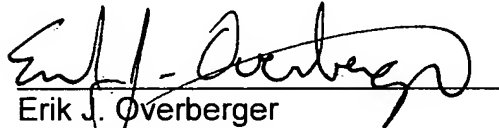
No additional fee is believed to be required for this Response. However, the undersigned attorney of record hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Deposit Account No. 24-0037.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby authorized to call Erik J. Overberger, at Telephone Number (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

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